

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL MEMORANDUM

HB 715 – SB 976

March 9, 2015

SUMMARY OF ORIGINAL BILL: Requires public higher education institutions to grant in-state tuition to individuals who are properly assigned veteran's educational benefits. In order for eligible students to continue to qualify for in-state tuition and fees three years after the date of a veteran's certificate of release or discharge, eligible students shall maintain continuous enrollment at a public higher education institution. Adds proof of voter registration to the list of documents that a student may obtain to show proof of residency. Requires the executive director of the Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC) to convene a panel of representatives from the University of Tennessee and the Tennessee Board of Regents to identify and develop methods to assess and maximize the academic credit awarded by public higher education institutions to veterans and military service members for their military experience, education, and training. Requires UT and TBR to adopt policies based on the outcome of these meetings by September 1, 2016.

FISCAL IMPACT OF ORIGINAL BILL:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENT (003808): Makes technical changes to Section 1 of the bill relative to other individuals who may use veteran's education benefits.

FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

Unchanged from the original fiscal note.

Assumptions for the bill as amended:

- Effective July 1, 2015, Section 702 of the federal Veteran's Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 requires the federal Veteran's Administration to disapprove programs of education for payment of benefits under the Post-9/11 GI bill and Montgomery GI Bill-Active Duty at public institutions of higher education, if such institutions charge qualifying veterans and their dependents tuition and fees in excess of the in-state tuition rate paid by resident students.
- No change in the number of qualifying veterans or veteran dependents that will attend public higher education institutions.
- No decrease in state revenue to public institutions of higher education.

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- THEC, in consultation with TBR and UT, will adopt policies related to maximizing the credit that veterans receive based on their military experience in the normal course of business without an increase in personnel or a reduction in other budget expenditures.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Jeffrey L. Spalding". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jeffrey" and last name "Spalding" clearly legible.

Jeffrey L. Spalding, Executive Director

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